

09/530894

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: GABRIEL & POLZIN ATT. DOCKET: 870-003-123  
SERIAL NO.: 09/\_\_\_\_\_ = § 371 of PCT/EP98/07230  
FILED: 4 MAY 2000 (HEREWITH)  
TITLE: NEEDLE ARRANGEMENT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS MAY 4, 2000  
WASHINGTON, DC 20231

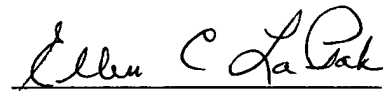
Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicants wish to bring the references, listed on the attached form PTO-1449 and enclosed herewith, to the attention of the Examiner. The relevance of the references is that they were cited in the International Search Report re **PCT/EP98/07230** dated 29 MAR. 1999 and/or in a German search report of 19 MAR. 1998 re German application **297 20 513.7** (priority document for the PCT), copies of each of which are enclosed herewith. Also enclosed is a copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/409). That report is being submitted in German since the European Patent

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Ellen C. LaPak

Office is translating this report and WIPO will send the translation directly to the United States Patent & Trademark Office. For the Examiner's convenience, copies of all known US equivalent patents are also enclosed herewith; see cross references in right column of Form PTO-1449.

**This submission complies with MPEP § 609.**

**REMARKS**

No representation is made that more pertinent, although presently unknown, art does not exist. It is anticipated that the Examiner will conduct a thorough search of the prior art and will carefully consider the documents submitted herewith.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to **return an initialled copy** of form PTO-1449, to confirm that the references have been considered.

Early examination and allowance of the present application are respectfully solicited. No fee is believed required; if any is required, it may be charged to Deposit Account No. 23-0442.

Respectfully submitted,

*Milton Oliver*

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**Attachments:**

- (1) German search report re DE 297 20 513.7 of 19 MAR. 1998
- (2) International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/210)
- (3) Transmittal & International Preliminary Examination Report (Forms PCT/IPEA/416 & /409)
- (4) PTO-1449 (2 sheets) & references cited